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## Easy His and Hers Pants and Jackets

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Techniques used to construct men's and women's tailored pants and jackets are often similar. The following directions, with slight modification, can be used for both.

### Pattern Selection

Selecting the right pattern is important to the success of the project. Before deciding on a pattern, become acquainted with fashion trends by window shopping, reading and observing garments. Note the fabric, pocket details, number and placement of buttons, lapel widths, fit and trims. Does the jacket have a loose or snug fit? The contour of the body is more closely duplicated as the number of darts increase. The width of the lapel should correlate with the wearer's size as well as with fashion. Large figures look best with moderately wide lapels. Side vents are usually considered more comfortable than vents at the center back. Are the pants pleated or form fitting? Leg widths vary from pencil slim to wide. Which style is best for you?

The next step is choosing a pattern. Consider the basic design of the pattern first. Is it close or loose fitting? Is it casual or dress wear? Are the lines flattering to the prospective wearer? The basic fit is most important. If not all desirable features are available in one pattern, pocket styles, lapel widths and trims can be adjusted.

**Pattern Size**—Select the jacket pattern by chest measurement for men and bust measurement for women. If the wearer's measurement is between two sizes purchase the smaller pattern. Most companies allow ample ease and the larger size will frequently be too big in the neck and chest area. That is difficult to alter. If there is a difference of more than two inches between the woman's full bust and high bust measurement buy the pattern one size smaller than the full bust.

### Supplies

**Fabric**—Fabrics are the key to beautiful garments. The fiber content, weight and weave have an important affect on the design. Drape the fabric to test its fall and hand. Evaluate the

intended use of the garment. A fine fabric is not necessary for gardening. Do buy the best quality for the intended use. Consult the wearer before selecting a color. If undecided, drape a length over the wearer's shoulder and observe the effect.

A textured surface of medium weight is best for a first project and may be woven or knit. A light-weight fabric will not hang or tailor satisfactorily. Look for a *close weave* in woven fabrics, and a *double knit* if you select a knit fabric.

Men's wear knits have smaller yarns held tightly. This results in a firm fabric and lessens the tendency to snag and pull. Good stability and true grain are necessary for both woven and knit fabrics.

**Yardage**—Find the yardage given on the back of the pattern envelope for the size garment you will make and add 1/4 yard. The additional fabric provides for pockets made from face fabric. Additional fabric may be needed if the jacket and sleeves require lengthening.

**Lining**—Fabric used for lining should be light-weight and have a smooth, slippery surface. It may be a print, contrast or matching color but should harmonize with the face fabric. It should also be compatible in fiber content, care requirements, weight and wearing qualities. Be sure the color will not crock, run or fume-fade.

Fabrics of 65 percent or more of nylon or polyester may be more expensive but the wearing quality, dye affinity and resistance to wrinkles make them worth the price. The lining fabric should be opaque to prevent seams and inner construction from showing through without adding excess weight to the garment. Tricot knits, of sufficient density, are acceptable. Acetate fabrics seldom wear as well as polyester and nylon fabrics.

Purchase the amount recommended on the pattern envelope. If the yardage given is for a half lining only, an additional 1/2 yard will be enough for a full lining.

**Interfacing**—The interfacing controls the shape and appearance of the jacket and is as important to its life and shape as are

## FUSIBLE INTERFACING

FABRIC NAME	FIBER CONTENT	WEIGHT OR HAND	CARE
Instant Armo®	Wool, cotton, Goat Hair Wool, cotton, Spun Viscose Cotton, Rayon, Goat Hair, Wool	Light Medium Heavy	Dry clean only Washable Dry clean
Fusible Acro®	9% Goat Hair, 70% Rayon, 21% Polyester	Medium	Wash or dry clean
Easy Shape® Stacy	70% Nylon, 20% Polyester, 10% Rayon	Light Weight Suit Weight	Wash (warm) or Dry clean
Non-Woven	Varies with brands	Light to Heavy	Wash or Dry clean
Fusible Pellon® All Bias Computer Dot®	60% Viscose Rayon, 40% Polyester	Light to Medium	Machine wash warm or Dry clean
Tri dimensional Computer Dot	50% Polyester, 50% Nylon 100% Polyester fusing dot	Medium to Heavy	Machine wash (warm) or Dry clean
Shape Flex® Non-Woven	100% Rayon Nylon and Cotton	Crisp Medium	Wash or Dry clean Washable
All purpose Shape Flex®	100% Cotton	Light Weight	Wash or Dry clean
Suit Shape - Fusible Canvas	60% Cotton, 40% Rayon	Medium	Wash (warm) or Dry clean

## ADHESIVES

Stitch Witchery	100% Polyamide	Medium	Wash or Dry clean
Polyweb®	100% Nylon	Light	Wash or Dry clean
Shop for additional products.	The market changes rapidly.		

the rafters to a roof. Interfacings are made in a variety of weights and fibers, and may be woven or non-woven. They are used to control stretching, add body and shape and should become a part of the garment without changing its hand.

Fusible interfacing suggested for this project is time saving; may be woven or non-woven; and in all cases **MUST BE PROPERLY SELECTED AND FUSED**. Do not use a fusible without testing on a scrape of face fabric to observe any change in hand or drape. Avoid inferior quality when selecting the fabric.

Fusibles correctly applied will not come loose during recommended laundering or dry-cleaning. **FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.**

Do not confuse fusible adhesives with fusible interfacings. Adhesives are used to bond two pieces of fabric together. Because new types and brands are being marketed continuously it is important to shop carefully. Before buying ask these questions:

1. **Type**—Is it hair canvas, woven, non-woven, fusible or an adhesive?
2. **Use**—Will it be used to stay stress areas or to add crispness and shape?
3. **Fiber content**—Is it compatible with the fiber content and care requirements of the face fabric?
4. **Weight**—Hold two layers together with the interfacing on the bottom. It should not be heavier than the face fabric.
5. **Application**—Can the manufacturer's directions *be followed exactly?*

A good quality, tightly woven iron-on interfacing is preferred for this project. Fusible hair canvas is suggested for the jacket front, side front and under collar. Conventional hair canvas fused with an adhesive, or a similar fusible interfacing should be used in the remaining areas to be interfaced.

**Yardage**—The amount purchased will depend on the interfacing you select because widths vary. The following estimates will serve as a guide:

Use	Width	Amount
1) Iron-on interfacing used for the entire jacket	22" 45"	4 1/2 yards or 2 yards
2) Hair canvas for jacket front	22"	2 yards
Iron-on for rest	22"	2 yards

## Notions

- **Thread**—Select thread slightly darker than the face fabric. It appears lighter when stitched into the fabric. Basting or silk thread are best for temporary handwork because of their texture. Cotton covered polyester or good quality polyester threads are suggested for stitching the garment. Avoid low quality polyester that frequently causes skipped stitches and breaks easily.

Top-stitching thread is suggested for button holes as well as top-stitching, and is either covered polyester or polyester. The choice of colors is somewhat limited. If this thread is not available consider using two strands of sewing thread with one needle or button-hole twist. The latter should be used on the top only and never wound on the bobbin. Use a large needle, size 16 or 100, depending on the machine, and lengthen the stitch. It may be necessary to loosen the top tension. **Practice** before stitching on the jacket.

- **Buttons** should harmonize with the jacket fabric and design, have smooth holes or shanks to prevent cutting thread and be colorfast. A thick or heavy button should be avoided.
- **Polyester fleece** is needed for shoulder pads, sleeve heading and chest padding. Purchase 3/4 yards.
- **Tracing paper and wheel.**
- **Pins and machine needles** in size 11 or 14.
- **Fusible web**—This may be purchased in a package but is less expensive by the yard.
- **Press cloth**—Non-woven cleaning cloths are suggested. (Examples - Handi-wipes or comparable brands.)
- **Sharp-cutting shears**
- **Non stretch tape measure**
- **Muslin**—Purchase the yardage given for the jacket in a firm or heavy weight.

This guide is part of a series on clothing construction.  
For others in the series see Home Economics guides 410-422.

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